Roebuck at Hampton Road in Virginia the 3d March 1776.

Sir

By his Majesties Ship the Mercury which arrived here the 17th of last Month, I had the honor to receive your orders respecting the River Delaware, and you may depend, Sir, that I will do my utmost to execute them: I confess, however that, I am of opinion as the River is now become rather formidable, a much larger force is necessary for that service, than I am able to carry thither from hence.

I have ~~only~~ here only the Liverpool, ill man'd and sickly; the Otter in as bad a state; and the Kingsfisher Sloop: One Ship at least must be left at Norfolk to protect the Governor and the Fleet there, and not less than two can properly guard the mouth of the Chesepeak-bay.
In my judgment, Sir, not less than three or four Ships of good force with a small one to cruize off the Capes can promise much success in opening the passage up so narrow a River which the Rebels have employed their whole art and industry for the year past to block up.

I

I understand those Chevaux de Frizes which the Rebels have sunk, have at least forty or fifty Tons of Ballast in them, which I concieve will be very difficult to raise, especially as they are protected by Battery's on the Jersey shore and the Armed craft on the River: Therefore, Sir, if you should think proper to send me more ships as I hope you will, I should be glad to have a few Howitzers or Cohorns, which will certainly be of great service: I must also take the liberty of saying that as Philadelphia is now an object of great consequence, I really think, if any Troops can be spared, ~~[illegible]~~ a Body ~~[illegible]~~ of Men to land occasionally on each side of the River would be a great assistance to the expedition. One cannot bear the Idea of His Majesty's Arms meeting with an insult; therefore am perhaps more cautious than necessary, but shall be perfectly satisfied with whatever force you think proper to send, and shall be most happy to receive any advice for my proceedings that you may please to give me.

I have not yet been able to procure a Single Pilot for Philadelphia, but have little

little doubt Captain Græme of the Kingsfisher (who I have employed on that service) will be able to succeed: I have sent with him one of the Roebucks officers in a Tender, with Orders in case of failing by stratagem to decoy the Pilots off at Cape Henlopen, to send his Boats into Lewis Town Creek, where they take Shelter, and endeavour to surprize them in their Vessels.

I intend very soon to move the Roebuck round to the Delaware, and shall leave Captn. Bellew here to receive your Orders.

I hope that I shall soon have the pleasure to hear from you, that you approve of my request, and attribute the liberty I have taken to its true motive, the Zeal I have for his Majesty's Service.

I have the Honor to be
Sir
Your most obedient
and most humble Servt.
A. S. Hamond

Molyneux Shuldham Esqr.
Rear Admiral of the White and
Commander in chief of all His
Majesty's Ships & Vessels employed
in N:o America — Boston

Roebuck at Hampton Road in
Virginia the 5th March 1776.

Sir

The Squadron of his Majesty's Ships stationed here being in great want of Provisions, Stores and other necessaries, and having no prospect of any supply but from Boston. I find my self under the absolute necessity of sending the Kingsfisher to inform you of our situation. altho' tis sorely against my will to part with her from hence at this juncture.

Since the burning of the Town of Norfolk all civil communication with the Shore has been at an end, and very little Provisions by any means, of any sort has been procured: The Contractors for Victualling the Navy could no longer supply the Ships, and had it not been for a Vessel that was stopped by one of the Tenders in January last laden with Flour, Lord Dunmore the Governor would not have been able to have subsisted the people he has a float with him until this time.

We are also greatly in want of Slops of all kinds; as I found the Ships here entirely without them, I have been under the necessity of supplying them from the Roebuck.

Enclosed is an account of the State and Condition of the Ships under my command, together

together with a Journal of my proceedings since I received Vice Admiral Graves's Orders of the 25th. december. also an account of the Vessels that have been seized and detained by his Majesty's Ships here; the list I believe is complete, except those taken by the Otter, and as Captain Squire is on a cruize, and has omitted leaving an acct. of them with me, I must defer sending it untill a future opportunity, but I understand they amount to only four or five small vessels of little value: It is impossible to send such round to Boston as it would employ our men to very little purpose; and as we have no Judge of the Admiralty here, nor Commissioners for prizes, I shall be glad, Sir, to have your Orders concerning them.

I likewise transmit you, Sir, a particular account of what the Liverpool is in want of. I am prevented from sending you the same from the Otter, for the reason abovementioned, but Captain Squire informed me before he sailed that he was in want of every kind of Store, leaving with me the inclosed memorandm. of his decayed Cables and Sails.

I beg leave also to acquaint you, Sir, that I have given Mr. Charles Fletcher Surgeon of the Roebuck, who is also, I believe, a good Physician an order

to

to receive on Shore the Sick Men from the Ships in the usual manner of sick quarters, which I hope you will approve of. The Ague and fever on board the Otter had shewn itself to be epidemick, and many died of it, but I have the pleasure to tell you that since I got them ashore the disease has subsided, and they are most of them in a fair way of recovery.

Lieutenant Orde of his Majesty's Ship under my command having when commanding officer on board at Halifax confined the Boatswain for bad behavior, I applied to Commodore Arbuthnot for a Court-martial to be held on him, but during the time I remained there, it could never be assembled for want of a sufficient number of Captains: I therefore took the opportunity of the Mercury's calling in here to order a Court-martial for his trial, when the charge was proved and the Boatswain was dismissed the Service. Since which I have given an order to Alexander Forbes (a Brisk active Boatswains Mate) to do that duty, whom I beg leave to recommend to you for promotion.

I hope my having detained the Liverpool here will meet with your approbation and that

that it will be in your power to send me the Supplys the Ships here are so much in want of. I have the honor to be

Sir

&c.ª &c.ª A S Hamond

Molyneux Shuldham Esq.r
&c.ª &c.ª &c.ª Boston.

Account of all the papers enclosed with
the above.

Journal of the Ships proceedings.
State and condition of Roebuck, Liverpool, Otter, & King's Fisher the Squadron.
Report of Seizures &c.ª made by D.o
Liverpools demands for Stores &c.ª
Otters, defective Cables &c.ª
Governor Martins Letter to Capt.n Bellew &c.ª
Captain Parrys to D.o
Captain Bellews Admty orders (Copy)
Account of the Rebels Marine force
Intelligence of D.o
Minutes of a Court martial
Sentence of D.o
Demand for off.s Stores for the Roebuck

Roebuck at Hampton Road in
Virginia the 14th March 1776 —

My Lord

As the season of the Year is now so far advanced that the Navigation of the River Delaware is open, I think it necessary to acquaint your Lordship that in obedience to my orders from the commander in chief of His Majesty's Ships in America: I intend as soon as the Otter arrives from her Cruize to proceed in the Roebuck to Philadelphia River, and purpose leaving the Liverpool and Otter here, for the defence of this Colony and for the Protection of your Lordship and his Majesty's Loyal and obedient subjects of this Province.

I have the honor to be
My Lord
&c. &c.
A S Hamond

His Excellency Lord Dunmore

Roebuck at Hampton Road
in Virginia the 19th March 1776

Sir

Captain Squire in the Otter being arrived from his Cruize, I think it necessary to acquaint you that I am going to proceed in the Roebuck to the River Delaware; It was my

my intention that the Liverpool under your command should have accompanied me thither, had I not lately been under the necessity of sending one of my Squadron to Boston; But from the earnest request made to me by his Excellency the Earl of Dunmore, and considering the present state of this Colony, I think it absolutely necessary that two Ships at least should remain here for its defence, and for the protection of the Governor and his Majesty's loyal and obedient Subjects of this Province, who have taken Shelter on board Ships now lying off Norfolk: It is therefore my desire that you take the Otter under your command and afford every protection and assistance in your power to His Excellency the Governor, to His Majesty's subjects in the Fleet at Norfolk, and to the entrenchment lately made there; Using at the same time every means that may occur to you of annoying and distressing the Rebels, and acting in every respect to the people of this Province as well as the other Twelve united Colonies, as to an enemy in time of open War.

And

And as I expect the Kingsfisher or some reinforcement will very Shortly arrive here, You are in that case immediately to join me in the River Delaware, leaving Orders with the Senior officer to co-operate with and give every possible protection to Lord Dunmore and the Friends of Government on board the Fleet at Norfolk.

I desire you will employ the Tenders most diligently in order to prevent any supplies whatever from getting to the Rebels, and once in Ten days to send one of them round to me with an account of your proceedings, and any intelligence that may be necessary to communicate to me.

You are also to use your endeavours to procure Pilots for any part of the Coast of America in order to Supply them to any Ships that may be in want of them, which you are to bear on a Supernumerary List for Victuals until you have an opportunity of sending them to me.

I am
&c.
A S Hamond

Captain Bellew
Commander of his Majesty's Ship
Liverpool

Roebuck in the River Delaware the 8th April 1776

Dear Sir

I had the favour of your letter of the 29th March by the Lord Howe Tender who joined me the 6th instant, she had been so long absent that I was under great apprehensions for her safety: especially as I have seen two Rebel Privateers off the mouth of this River since I have been here, which on account of the Shoals and Tides I was not able to get at; both of which are an overmatch for such a miserable Vessel as she is: The one is a Brig carrying 18 fourpounders and the other is a Bermudan Sloop of 10 fourpounders, and are fitted out with the intention of clearing the Coast of our Tenders.

I have the greatest reason to believe the Philadelphia Fleet are upon their return home, which makes me wish exceedingly for another Ship to be with me in order to make the intercepting them the more certain; yet as I am equally desireous to keep the little footing we have in Virginia secure, I cannot (I think) with any degree of propriety desire you to come round to me untill another Ship or Sloop shall arrive, which may be left for the protection of the Fleet &c. in Elizabeth River

River: which I trust ~~which I trust~~ must happen very soon, either from those Ships expected under the command of Sir Peter Parker, or from the Admiral to the Northward from whom I am in hourly expectation of hearing.

Having thought it necessary in my present situation to strengthen my Ships company by every means in my power, and at the Same time thinking it unsafe to trust my people & ammunition any longer in a vessel that can neither Sail, or is properly equipt for War; I have dismantled my Tender the Lord Howe and have Sent her round to Norfolk to be laid up; but if you can find me any vessel that has the character of being a good Sailor and can be made to mount 10 Guns I should be glad you would send her round to me with the people who navigate the Lord Howe to Virginia and the Maria Sloop who accompanies her.

I have sent Mr. Mason the Purser round with the Sloops in order to settle the business of this Ship, and shall be obliged to you for any assistance that you can give him.

I am obliged to you for the account of the Act of Parliament, which I had before received from Philadelphia. I believe the officers & Seamen of his Majesty's Ships did not stand in need of

any

any particular incitement to do their best in crushing this most unnatural rebellion; but since this great mark of the Nations generosity towards them, they must feel a desire of acting still more spiritedly from the additional motive of gratitude, as in my opinion it is much more than they had any right to expect.

I have taken 6 or 7 small Vessels, but as none of them had Cargoes of much value, I rather chose to destroy them than weaken my Ships company by Sending men on board to Navigate them, but am sorry at the same time to tell you that I have lost my third Lieutenant who with three Seamen are now Prisoners with the Rebels. I sent him in a pilot Boat in quest of a Sloop that appeared in Sight, which he took and manned, and in returning to the Ship (in the night) he by some unfortunate accident or mistake run aground upon the beach at high water; I wish of all things to have one of those flatts at Norfolk fitted as a floating Battery. I have written to Lord Dunmore on this head, and I shall be glad you would give his Lordship every assistance about it that you possibly can.

I.

I am not quite easy at your trusting the River entirely to the Otter, especially as I underst.d Captain Squire has again weakened his Sloop by fitting out a Second Tender, when in my judgment he has already many more men than he ought to Suffer to be out of his Ship on board the Fincastle; but as he has not Sent me any account about his Ship, I am in hopes he has by some means or other encreased his numbers, therefore suspend all opinion about it untill I hear from him.

I have according to your desire Sent Lightbody round to you, who you will find to be very well acquainted with the Coast and at least the mouth of the River Delaware.

I am &c.

A S Hamond

P. S.

Instead of Lightbody I have sent you the Pilot Chambers —

Henry Bellew Esq.
Commander of his Majestys Ship
the Liverpool
Virginia

Roebuck River Delaware 4th May 1776.

My Dear Sir

I have had no opportunity of writing to you before this, or you Sooner would have had my acknowledgments for the favour of your letter by the Fincastle, which was forwarded to me hither. You know how positive my Orders were about the River Delaware, in consequence of which I came here as early as the 25th March, having first sent to Admiral Shuldham for more force and further instructions: It was only yesterday that, I had an answer from him, which amounts to no more than that he has sent me an other Ship, allows the propriety of all my other requests, but has it not in his power to comply with any one Article of them at present. Without a Body of Troops to act in conjunction with me, I confess, I see no great advantage that would arise in clearing the Passage of the River; It would only afford an opportunity of cannonading the Town for a short time, and the Navigation can be Stoped without it. I conclude and hope

Sir

Sir Peter Parker is arrived. I would give the world to have an hours conversation with him and you together. The Admiral has left me quite at liberty. I have seen nothing to alter my first Idea of Virginia: Yet I think a Stroke at Philadelphia might come within the plan; Don't be Surprized if you should see me. I have not yet had time since the Arrival of the Fowey from Halifax to turn this matter sufficiently in my thoughts, and I cannot delay a moment to send her to Lord Dunmore, as I find Lee is getting into his Neighbourhood. Our situation there is not much altered from when you left us, it is certainly no worse; We want Pork it is true, but we have plenty of flour, and more can always be had. The little Tenders have had great success in taking small Vessels, which has distressed the enemy much, but we have had the misfortune to lose one of the best of our Cruizers, the Liverpools Tender. You will no doubt have heard that Hopkins's fleet has been well thrashed by the Glasgow, and they are now blocked up at New London by our Rhode Island Squadron. The people of Mary land and this Government are

fitting

fitting out a Number of Privateers, and unless we get more Small Vessels will do mischief among our Scattered Transports &c.

I have the honor to be
Sir &c.
A S Hamond

General Clinton
N. Carolina

Roebuck River Delaware 16th May 76.

Sir

If at any time in the Course of our cruizing off this place, we should happen to lose company ~~at any time~~; or that I should think it necessary to proceed to any other place with the Ship under my command; It is my desire and direction to you, that you remain with his Majestys Ship the Liverpool on this station, and cruize in the manner you shall think best to intercept the Trade of the River Delaware and annoy the enemy in all respects.

And whereas I expect the Glasgow to arrive here very Soon, and have Some reason to expect the Experiment will be another Ship
Sent

Sent hither also; Should that happen while I am absent, you are to dispatch one of them round to me at Virginia without loss of time and acquaint me with every thing that is necessary for me to be informed of.

I would have you put your people to two thirds allowance (which is at present the State of the whole Squadron in America) and continue cruizing as long as your provisions will last, and then proceed to Hampton Road in Virginia.

I am
Sir
Your most obedient
humble Servant
A. S. Hamond

Captn. Bellew
Commander of his Majs. Ship
Liverpool

Dear Sir

Roebuck at Gwins Island Chesapeak bay in Virginia 30th May 1776

The reason you have not heard from me Sooner, is owing to our having taken the resolution of moving the Fleet from Norfolk to this place, which was effected on the 27th. I believe, without the loss of a Single vessel, except three or four that were obliged to be destroyed for want of materials to bring them round. For a description of the Island, the Harbour, and what we are about, I refer you intirely to Mr. Goold, who will inform you of the particulars in a much fuller manner than I could write them: as also of every thing that has happened (which I believe is soon related) since you left the fleet at Norfolk. He would have come to you soon after my arrival in Virginia, but I judged it necessary to keep him, in order to inform you of our movement.

I hope to hear you have had great Success on your cruize, and that you have been joined by some other Ship. When I first came here, and learned by Mr. Parker, that Captain Wallis, instead of blocking up the Rebel Fleet at New London, had sailed (he believes) to Halifax, I confess I was in some pain for having left the Delaware; but

but the day after, my Tender (who I had sent for Stock at Chinkateague Island) arrived and told me, he saw a Single Ship which he took to be a Man of War, standing in for a Cape Henlopen; which I have Set down to be the Experiment, and hope soon to hear I am not mistaken; should that be the case, as soon as your water grows short, I would have you come here and leave her cruizing upon that Station.

I congratulate you on our Success at Quebec, a letter from Colonel Campbell to the Congress dated May the 10th Says; the Day before, 2 Men of War, 2 Frigates and a Tender arrived before Quebec, and landed a body of Men. That in the Night General Carolton made a Sally upon them; that as there Army was much dispersed they were not able to make much resistance, and their retreat was precipitate and confused; That they lost all their Cannon, Money Arms and much Ammunition; all their Sick amount-ing to upwards of 200. Some killed and many others taken prisoners. That they had retreated to the Mouth of the Sorel, where they held a Council of War; the result of which was; if they should be considerably reinforced, get more Cannon and Provisions,

and

and provisions, and also ascertain the Real strength of the Garrison they might perhaps return to Deschambeau in order to renew the Seige — The Canadians have Also deserted them.

Governor Eden can no longer stay with safety to himself at Annapolis, and has Sent his Secretary to me to beg I will send for him, which I intend doing very Soon. In short I begin to find more employment for the Roebuck in Virginia than I expected.

It was reported Strongly at Annapolis on Sunday that 60 Sail of Men of War & Transports were arrived at Sandy hook. You will also see by the papers (If I can get them to send to you) how strong the presumption is that the Commissioners are arrived with 12 thousand Hessian Troops. The People of Virginia and Maryland all believe it most firmly: and the report of it, prevented Maryland from declaring Independancy, as Virginia and North Carolina have done formally, by instructions to their Delegates in Congress to Vote for it.

To day they talk of opening a market on the Island for provisions, should that be the case, I hope we shall be able to send you some thing.

I intended to have sent Mr Goold round in my Pilotboat, but was obliged for want of small

Tenders

Tenders to station her inside the Island with 2 others.

Captain Squire and his Tender are cruizing off the Capes to give intelligence of our removal to our friends coming in, and to protect us from the invasions of our enemies.

If Captain Scott is with you, present him with my regard, and desire I may hear from you both imediately.

Wishing you ~~[illegible]~~ all Success and happiness. I remain my Dear Sir

most faithfully yours

A S Hamond

Captain Bellew

commander of his Majs Ship

Liverpool

River Delaware

Roebuck at Gwyns Island

Virginia the 30th May 1776.

Dear Sir

I have received your letter of the 26th instant by Mr Smith, and am very Sorry, tho not Surprized to learn that you think it necessary to leave Annapolis. The Province of Maryland has hitherto been looked upon as having acted with a degree of moderation in the present unnatural Rebellion subsisting in the

the Colonies, and I confess, I had great hopes from your continuing in your Government, that you might have been able to have convinced the people, of the impossibility of their ~~pro~~ succeeding in the plan they are now pursuing (the only motive I fear that will have any weight with them in bringing them back to their allegiance) but as you certainly have now given ~~them~~ it a very fair Tryal, and it is become apparent that the matter can only be Settled by force of Arms, I confess that, I think your remaining longer among them, would only be exposing yourself to insults, and would answer no good purpose to His Majesty's Service. I shall therefore very soon Send one of the Kings Ships to receive you on board, and will give orders that she shall commit no hostilities at Annapolis whilst on that Service. But as no officer in his Majesty's Service can be supposed to allow of the smallest insult being offered with impunity to the British Colours it will be necessary for you to inform the persons that assume the Government of the people, that if the Peace is not very strictly observed on the part of the Rebels, with regard to the Boats, as well as the Ship, during the time it may be necessary for

her

her to Stay on the Coasts of Maryland, that any orders that I may issue for the purpose, will not restrain the Captain of the Ship from acting as he shall think proper upon any such occasion.

Had I not received your letter you would certainly have heard from me in a few days, to have acquainted you, that His Excellency Lord Dunmore Governor of this Colony and myself with the joint force under our command, left Norfolk the 23 instant and put into this harbour on the 26 in Order to complete our wood and water, where we at present remain.

I have the honor to be
Dr. Sir
Your most obedient
humble St.
A S Hamond

Robt. Eden Esquire
Dept. Governor of
Maryland
Annapolis

Roebuck at Gwins Island in
Virginia the 9th June 1776.

Sir

Having been informed by a vessel that arrived here yesterday, that his Majesty's Troops in Garrison at St. Augustine, as well as the inhabitants, are in Great want of Provisions; I have therefore lost no time in dispatching my Tender, commanded by Mr. Whitworth, with a Small Supply of Bread and Flour to you, and every thing besides that could be spared from the numerous Fleet we have here. I hope it will arrive in time to be of use; but if you should have been supplied from any other quarter, I shall beg of you to return the Beef back to us, the other Articles we are tolerably well off in.

I take this opportunity to acquaint your Excellency, that Lord Dunmore and my self, with the Forces under our command, together with a numerous Fleet of Vessels, containing some of the late Inhabitants of Norfolk, evacuated that place the latter end of last Month, and have taken possession of this Island, which forms an excellent Harbour at the Mouth of Piankatank river in Chesapeak Bay

and

and being centrical to all the Rivers, is a very proper rendezvous for His Majesty's Fleet.

We are much in want of Small Cannon, from Nine pounders to three Pounders, and have not a Single Howitzer or Cohorn. If there should be any at St. Augustine that can be spared, we shall be much obliged to you for them. I say nothing to you about Troops, more than to lament our having so very few here at this juncture. Had we the remaining part of the 14th Regiment, I think it would not be in the power of the enemy to dispossess us: but circumstanced as we are, our situation is by no means secure; however, we have always the resource of our Ships to retire to, and can move where we find it necessary without much difficulty

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most humble
& obedient Servant
A. S. Hamond

P.S. I must beg of you to dispatch my Sloop back to me as soon as possible.

Govern.r Tonyn
St. Augustine East Florida

Roebuck at Gwins Island in Virginia
the 10th June 76.

Dear Sir

It was not untill yesterday that I receivd any certain account of your arrival in America, on which I beg leave to congratulate you.

The circumstances of the Fleet and army to the Northward has been such, that it has not been in Admiral Shuldhams power, to send me a force sufficient to authorize me, to make any attempt on Philadelphia; I therefore no sooner heard of your intended expedition against Charles Town, than I immediately quitted the River Delaware, to the Liverpool (which I have left cruizing off there) with an intention of joining you with the Roebuck; but calling into Virginia in my way, I found Lord Dunmore and his Fleet in so much danger from the Enemy, who were bringing down cannon to all the points of the River, and were preparing fire-rafts to destroy the Ships, that I found myself under the necessity of attempting to move them before the enemy began their attack. This I assure you was no easy task, as they consisted of near <u>100</u> sail of vessels, many of them with valuable Cargoes, and the most part without seamen, which I was obliged to supply

out

out of the Kings Ships, However we made shift to get here without the loss of a single vessel, except those we destroyed for want of materials to Navigate them with.

We have taken possession of this Island which is about three or four Miles in length and one in breadth, Seperated from the Main ½ a mile, except on one place (which is that where Lord Dunmore has his Camp) that is not above the reach of Musquet Shot, However this part is defended by the Guns from the Ships. The Island lyes at the mouth of Piankatank River, ~~and~~ forms a safe and commodious Harbour for any number of Ships, and as it is centrical to all the Rivers, I think it is the best rendezvous of any in Virginia for the fleet; the Island is certainly much too large for us to defend in our present weak situation, if the enemy should make any Serious attack upon us, but if we had a body of 200 Troops more, I do not think it would be in the power of the Rebels to dispossess us, and I confess now that we are here, I am very desirous of keeping it: As I dont know a better place in Virginia for the head Quarters of a fleet and an Army.

You

You will certainly conceive, Sir, from what I have related to you that I have not only had my hands full by this movement, but that I am unlikely to get clear of this incumbrance for some time, as I have been obliged to Land my Marines and assist in the necessary Fortifications for the defence of the Island: Notwithstanding if the Pilot Boat I sent to the Liverpool a fortnight ago had been lucky enough to have found her and, brought her hither, I flatter my self you should have seen me before this time; I have sent to her again and if she should drop in while I think I can be of any use to you, It will afford me infinite satisfaction to have an opportunity of joining you; attended, however, with some distress at leaving the River Delaware again open to the enemy.

I have the Fowey with me here, the Otter is cruizing at the Capes, and I apprehend the Glasgow is gone to Halifax to refit, as she has never joined me, but was on her way to do it, when she fell in with and thrashed the Rebel Fleet off Block Island.

Governor Eden of Maryland has got Leave of the Committee of Safety to quit Annapolis, and has written to me to desire I will send a man of

War

War to receive him on board and bring him down to the Fleet, which I intend doing as soon as I can spare one from the Service they are now imediately employed on.

I have nothing by way of News to send you, I conclude that you must have heard that the Rebels have been well drubbed by General Carolton at Quebec, and that they have raised the Seige — We are told by the News Papers, Ten thousand Men are arrived in Transports at New York, but nothing particular about them.

Just before I left the Delaware I run up to re-connoiter the River and to fill fresh water, the Liverpool was with me — The Row Galleys thought proper to pay me a visit, about a dozen miles below the pass they have fortified, where the River is so very narrow, and so rapid, that they had every advantage that situation could give them; However they fired away Seven Tons of Powder at us, without doing us the least mischief, except the loss of one Man in the Roebuck; I endeavoured to draw them into a Wide part of the River, but they knew their advantage and declined the challenge: Report says they rec. much damage, but those are Secrets they most religiously hide from the Publick.

A

A Schooner came in yesterday and brought me an account that, the Garrison of Saint Augustine were Starving for want of Provisions; I have therefore put on board of my Tender a small Supply for them, least they should not have received any from another quarter.

If you can send us any Small Guns, Cohorns or Howitzers, they will be of the utmost use to us.

I pray, most devoutly, for Success to attend his Majesty's Forces in the hands of my friend Clinton and yourself, and most anxiously hoping that I may Soon hear you have reduced the Pride of (what the Americans call the Carolinians) the Red Birds.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your faithful and obedient
humble Servant
A. S. Hamond

To
Commodore Sir Peter Parker
commander in chief &c. &c.
on his Ms. Ship the
Bristol
S Carolina

Roebuck at Gwins Island in
Virginia the 10th June 1776 —

My Dear Sir

I am not a little uneasy at not hearing from you; and yet as you have no vessel with you, I don't well know how I should; nor has it been in my power to send any thing to you; so continually have we been employed.

Mr Goold the Purser of the Liverpool had sailed in search of you before the Spanish Snow arrived; and after cruizing, as he tells me, for three or four days off Cape Henlopen and Cape May, he returned here, without being able to find you; and was in some little distress, as he had split his Sails, and expended his fresh water.

I have done every thing with the Spaniard you desired, but have not been able to find any thing more in her than was acknowledged by the Captain to you; and as to the right of Seizure, I have not the least doubt, as she appears to me to be entirely within the letter of the last act of Parliament: therefore I think the best thing you can do is, to get her to a place where there is a Court of Vice admiralty as

soon

as soon as you can.

The removal of the Fleet to this place, has for the present so entangled us with more business, that I don't see the least prospect of sending a Ship to relieve, or assist you; And Notwithstanding my reluctance at leaving the River Delaware again open: Yet, in your situation (if it is not better than when I last heard from you) I think it altogether as improper that you should remain any longer there; It is therefore my desire that you proceed with the Ship under your command to this place as Soon as possible, in order to recruit your Ships company.

By a Schooner which arrived here the 8th instant, we are informed that Sir Peter Parker, and General Clinton, are gone, with the Forces under their command, to besiege Charles Town South Carolina.

I hope Soon to have the pleasure of seeing you, till when adieu

I always am
My Dr Sir
Yours &c
A. S. Hamond

Henry Bellew Esqr
commander of his Majs Ship
Liverpool
Delaware Bay

Roebuck at Gwins Island in
Virginia the 24 June 1776.

My Dear Sir

Having wrote to you so very lately by Mr. Whitworth in my Tender, which I dispatched to you the 10th instant, I have very little to communicate to you, by the Lively (whom I wish not to detain a single hour) than to inform you that our situation here is much the same as when I wrote, not having been in the least interrupted by the Rebels.

I have sent the Fowey to Annapolis for Governor Eden and as Soon as she returns I shall entrust the care of the Virginia Fleet &c. here to Captain Montague and the Otter, and shall repair with the Roebuck to the Delaware in order to relieve the Liverpool and Orpheus, the latter being ordered to join the Admiral, and the former being quite out of Provisions must come here to recruit.

I have the pleasure to inform you that the inhabitants of the two Lower Counties on the Delaware, tired of the Tyranny and oppression of the times have taken up Arms to the number of 3 thousand and declared themselves in favour of Government. Three very Sensible Men have been

aboard

aboard the Liverpool, and declared that with a few Regulars to put them in order they would march directly to Philadelphia with 6 or 7 thousand men that they could raise in a week.

The Congress have already taken some Step towards disarming them, but are not in the least likely to succeed.

I have a man just came over to me from the Eastern Shore of the Bay acquainting me that the County of Somerset and its neighbouring ones in Maryland (which borders on the Delaware Counties) are nine in Ten in favour of Government, and are ready to take up Arms, and join the Kings forces the moment they shall receive a summons. This is the third ambassador I have had to the same effect, & I confess it appears to me the very best opening that has yet appeared in our favour and deserves every attention and encouragement that can be given to it.

The Lively has made the Signal for Sailing therefore have not time to say so much on the subject as I otherwise should, nor to give General Clinton a letter about it, which I hope he will be so good as to excuse upon

the

the communicating to him what I have said; I should further Add that we are well informed that the people of Philadelphia are full of disgust and shew open Marks of despondency.

I trust ere this General Howe and the Admiral are arrived at New York; the Liverpool picked up two Stray Transports from the West Indies and has convoyed them to that place which will give Captain Belleu an opportunity of communicating the first part of this intelligence to them; that which relates to the disposition of the People on the Eastern shore of Maryland he is not acquainted with.

I most ardently wish to hear of your Success and am with great respect

Sir

Yours &c.

A S Hamond

Commodore Sir Peter Parker

commander in chief &c. &c. onboard

his Majesty's Ship the

Bristol

S. Carolina

Roebuck off of Gwins Island
Virginia 10th July 1776.

Sir

Notwithstanding my orders of the 5th instant, directing you to proceed immediately to London with the Levant Victualler, so soon as you should have put the remainder of your provisions on board the Anna Transport: It is now my further commands to you, that if in case Governor Eden shall apply to you, either for a Passage to England, or to remain here for his accommodation, you are in every respect to obey his orders, taking notice of the time he shall think proper to detain you; and on your arrival in England to acquaint the Commissioners for Victualing His Majestys Navy therewith.

I am
Sir
Your most humble Servt
A S Hamond

To
Mr. Samuel Thomas
Master of the Levant
Victualing Transport

Roebuck 9 at Night Thursday
the 18 July 1776.

My ~~Dear~~ Lord

After waiting the whole day with the fulest expectations of seeing the Transports get under way to join me, and grudging every hour that was lost of so fair and fresh a wind. Mr. Orde is just returned to me, & informs me that the Anna will not be ready until to morrow evening. I confess this disapointment and delay is more than I have temper and patience to bear; therefore cannot help trespassing so far on your Lordship as to beg the favour of you to make enquiry into the cause of it, and Satisfy yourself there has been no neglect of duty, or the Ship incumbered with other goods than what your Lordship has been acquainted with. It is now five days since the Transports were Ordered by your Lordship to take in the empty casks, and one of them is not yet clear of the Cargo; which if she was under my command I should look upon as Sufficient cause of dismission from the Service, or
as

at least of turning the master out of his employment.

I beg pardon for troubling you so long, on ~~a subject~~ this business; but you must attribute it to the great uneasiness I suffer, at seeing three of the Kings Ships in a state of perfect inactivity, at a moment when it is necessary to strain every nerve to its utmost exertion in prosecuting the war.

I am sorry there is no Pilot to be got for the Anna — however I will make a further enquiry thro' the fleet. I must also again request the favour of the draft of the River, which shall be returned when we come back.

Mr. Orde tells me he thinks your Lordship still means to accompany us; I hope I need not tell you how happy I always am in having your company; But should I be disappointed of that pleasure, I submit it to you, whether it will not be necessary for your Lordship to give Captain Lesley Orders to put himself under

my

my command. I am Sorry to Say that the disgrace of Gwin's Island evacuation, hangs so much about me that, I cannot help thinking it necessary to issue positive Orders, where the 14th Regt. are to be concerned.

I have seen one of the Rebel look out Boats this afternoon that came down to look at us; I sent the Otter to Chace her, but the former was too nimble and went off. The Otter and Ranger will Sail up the River in the night and perhaps get above her: in that case we may stand some chance of seeing her again.

If, my Lord, there should be likely to happen any new delay to the Transport, why should not the Troops come on board the Roebuck, or on board the other Transports and the Ship follow when she is ready?

I fear your Lordship will think me very troublesome and importunate, however you must on this occasion forgive me. as I am always most truly and affectionately

your Lordships faithful & Obd.t Serv.t

A S Hamond

His Excellency
The Earl of Dunmore &c &c &c

Sir

Roebuck at the Capes of Virginia
the 6th Augt. 1776.

The Sickly and weak State of the Troops under Lord Dunmores command, as well as the bad condition of the Transports have determined His Lordship and my self to proceed with them to New York; being clearly of opinion that remaining within the Capes without power of acting against the Rebels only tends to bring disgrace on his Majestys Arms, and give Spirits to the enemy.

It is therefore my direction to you, that you remain with His Majestys Ship under your command on this station, and use your utmost endeavours to prevent any of the Rebel Vessels from getting in or out of the Capes, and in every other respect to annoy the Enemy by every means in your power. I have left my Tender the Pembroke to cruize with you, but as Soon as you are joined by the Otter, or any other Ship or vessel of War, It is my desire that you despatch her to me immediately at New york and give me an account of every thing that may happen in my Absence from Virginia

which

which I flatter my self will not be above 14 Days at farthest.

I am much concerned at the Shortness of your water, but imagine by the assistance of the Tender you will be able to get some small Supplies from Smith's Island, so as not to be obliged to go off the Station untill relieved by some other Ship.

I am
Sir.
Your most obedient.
humble Servant
A S Hamond

To
Captain Montagu
commander of His Majesty's
Ship the Fowey.

Roebuck off Staten Island the
20th August 1776.

My Lord

The Purser of His Majesty's Ship under my command, having applied to me by letter of this date, requesting I would make application to your Lordship to direct the Agent Victualler to receive into his charge the Provisions on board the Hospital Brig, William and Anna Transports, which I had directed him to take in charge, to clear the Sevant Victualler. I beg the favour, your Lordship will be pleased to order his request to be complied with.

I am

My Lord

Your Lordships

most obedient Servant

A S Hamond

The Rt. Honble. the Lord Vt. Howe
Vice admiral of the White and
Commander in chief &c &c &c
Eagle

Roebuck off Red Hook the 27th Sep 76

My Lord

The Carpenter of His Majesty's Ship under my command being desirous of having a Survey held on the remains of his Stores, in order to pass his annual account with the Navy board, I beg the favour of your Lordship (when the Service permits of it) to grant an order for that purpose.

I beg also to inform your Lordship that the Party of Marines on board the Roebuck are much in want of Clothing, and the time for which they were to last, long ago expired. Should it be possible to supply them here, before the Winter Sets in, it will be a great relief to them.

I have the honor to be wt. gt. respt.
Your Lordships most obedt.
and most humble Servt.
A S H

Vice Admiral, Howe

My Lord

Roebuck in North River New York Harbour the 20th Sept. 1776.

Inclosed is a letter from the Surgeon of His Majesty's Ship under my command requesting a supply of necessaries for the Sick and Hurt.

Also a Demand for Marine Clothing.

At the same time, I beg the favour of your Lordship to direct a Survey to be taken of the Gunners Stores in order, to ascertain precisely the quantity of Powder, Shot &c. that remains on board, after what has been lately fired away at the Enemy

I have the honor to be

&c.

A. S. Hamond

Viscount Howe &c. &c.

Roebuck off the Delaware 13 Dec. 1776

My Lord!

I have the pleasure to inform your Lordship that I have this morning taken a Philadelphia Vessel, that came from Cape [illegible] with a quantity of Gunpowder, Small Arms, Sulphur, and coarse Linnens intended for the use of the Rebel Army. I have taken the Powder out of her, but what remains are Articles of great consequence to the Rebels, I [illegible] Captain Phipps in the Camilla to see the [illegible] [illegible] and to bring my people [illegible]

I have the honor to be

[illegible] Lordship's faithful

[illegible] obedient Servant

A. S. Hamond

Lord V. Howe &c. &c. &c.

[illegible]

New York

Roebuck off the Delaware the 22d Decr 76.

Sir

It is my desire and direction to you, that you proceed with His Majesty's Ship under your command to New York, in order to Convoy thereto, the Two Friends Brig a Prize taken this morning from the Rebels, and having seen her in safety, you are to take the officer and people out of her, and return to join me here with the utmost expedition.

I am
Sir
Yours &c &c
A S Hamond

The Honble Captain Phipps
of His Majts Ship the
Camilla.

Roebuck in Cape Henlopen Road the
22d Decr 1776.

My Lord

As I send the Perseus to convoy two prizes within sight of New York, I have the opportunity to acquaint your Lordship.
That since my arrival here (which was on the 8 instant) no event of any consequence concerning the motions of the Rebels, or information has come to my knowledge; but from a little communication, I have had by flags of Truce with Lewis Town; the People there seem much more friendly to Government, than

than they were some time ago: The Colonel of the Militia who commands in this district received the last proclamations from the officer, and said they should be dispersed.

I can assure your Lordship that all possible vigilance has been used to stop the Navigation of this Port, and notwithstanding the Pearl and Camilla were driven off by the Northerly winds for near a week, our Endeavours have not been ineffectual, for except one Vessel that the Falcon missed by her bad sailing, I know of none that has passed by us, which I must do Captain Linzee the justice to say, has been much owing to his diligence, as I have stationed the Falcon on the inside of Cape May, which is the Channel all the small Vessels frequent, and which is so narrow that nothing can pass without being in reach of his Guns.

As the Pearl has never joined me, and Captain Wilkinson informed me, he would be ready for sea in two or three Days after I sailed, I conclude your Lordship has detained him at New York.

I have the honor to be
&c.
A. S. Hamond

Lord Visc. Howe &c. &c.
Eagle
New York

Roebuck off Cape Henlopen the
January 1777.

My Lord

I should have had great pleasure in informing your Lordship, that the Lexington Brigantine of War commanded by Captain Hallock of 16 Guns and 86 men fitted out by the Congress, had fallen into our hands, was it not that her being secure is extreamly doubtful: Captain Wilkinson in the Pearl fell in with her a few leag. to the Southward of the Capes, and altho' she is an exceeding fast Sailer, yet from a very strong wind that then blew and being to windward, The Pearl overpowered her with sail and came up with her on a short chace; Soon after it came on to blow so very hard, added to the accident of Staving a Boat, that Captain Wilkinson had it not in his power to take out ~~after~~ other any more of the Prisoners than the Captain and Nine officers. which were replaced by about as many of the Pearls Men. They continued together all the remainder of the day, but lost company in the Night in very bad weather, and she has never since been heard of. The Lexington had been sent to Cape Francois in October last in order to Convey Letters to the French Government from the Congress, and also to bring back some Goods the Rebels were in want of as appears by the Captains account and

his

his Orders, which together with His commission, by desire of Captain Wilkinson, I have the honor to forward to your Lordship.

Captain Hallock informs me that on account of the recommendation he carried with him from the Congress he was exceedingly well received by the Governor at the Cape, that he saluted the Fort with 15 Guns and received 7 in return; but that although the Harbour abounded with American trading Vessels he did not perceive they enjoyed any other Priviledges than formerly: He adds that the Governor told him that he daily expected the arrival of a Squadron of Men of War from France, and that he himself saw several Transports arrive with Troops, but could not tell whether it was more than the common relief of the Garrison, or not. Upon being asked if from what he saw and heard, that it was his opinion that the French were about to assist the Americans, he answered, no, that he had not the least Idea of it, but that he was informed that a War between France and Russia was much expected, and that Insurance at the Capes was at 25 pr Cent.

I

I have allowed the Captain to be set ashore on his parole in order to be exchanged for any officer of the Rank he claims, that either is or may be taken Prisoner from us by the Americans; as well as the other officers.

All the Prisoners that were on board the Ships under my orders here, that were taken in trading Vessels and were natives of the Country, who did not chuse to enter into His Majesty's Service. I have also set on Shore upon the promise of the Council of Safety at Philadelphia, to return me the same number when they shall have it in their power; which resolve is also enclosed.

Captain Linzee of the Falcon has just informed me that an armed Brigantine, which he has reason to believe is come from Cape Francois in attempting, a few nights ago to push into the Delaware thro' the Cape May Channel ran ashore upon one of the Shoals and to all appearance will be entirely lost.

I have the Honor to be

&c. &c. &c.

A. S. Hamond

P.S.

The Pearl did not join me early enough for me to comply with your Lordships commands signified in your Letter of the 14th of last Month.

Re-

Respecting the Capes of Virginia, and as I conclude Captain Parker is long ago upon that Station; It is now, I apprehend, become unnecessary.

I learn from all the Prisoners I have taken that they had the fullest confidence that the Men of War would not be able to guard the Delaware at this late Season, on which account most of the Vessels in the West Indies had Orders to attempt getting in there, for which reason I intend staying at least a week or Ten days longer than I otherwise should have done, and wish if possible that it might not be left without one Ship at Least all the Winter.

A. S. H.

To
The Right Hon.ble the Lord Visc.t Howe
Vice Admiral of the White &c.a &c.a &c.a
New York

Roebuck in the Delaware the 1st Jan.y 1777

Sir

It is my desire that you take under your care the three Prizes now in the Road and proceed with them to Sandy Hook, where after having seen them in safety you will please to return and join me here with all possible expedition. But if by contrary winds or bad weather you should be detained in this Service above Ten days, you

will

will then open the Sealed Orders already delivered
to you and follow the directions therein contained
for your further Guidance and proceedings.

I am

&c A S Hamond

Captain Linzee
of His Majesty's Sloop
the Falcon

Roebuck at Antigua 16th Feby 1777

My Lord.

In my last Letter by the Cork Victuallers dated at Sea the 20th Jany I informed your Lordship that I was on my way to this Island; I have now the honor to acquaint you that I arrived here with His Majesty's Ship under my command, and the Pearl the 27th of last Month.

I delivered your Lordships dispatches to Vice Admiral Young who in consequence gave the necessary orders for Careening and refitting the Ships with all possible expedition which he has inforced by every means in his power; yet the delays occasioned by the few Hours people can work in a day in this Country, together with the very few Men belonging to the Yard, and the weakness of the Ships [illegible] from the Sudden change of [illegible] will not allow of my Sailing from hence, I fear, sooner than about the 7th of next mo[nth]

The

The Perseus Camilla and Falcon I expect in every hour, and as neither of them want much repairs I make no doubt of getting them ready to Sail with me.

I am very Sorry to inform your Lordship that Captain Wilkinson of the Pearl died the day before yesterday. And that Admiral Young has acquainted me he intends appointing Captain Linzee of the Falcon to command the Pearl and Mr. Windsor now first Lieut. of the Portland to the command of the Falcon

I have the Honor to be
with all possible respect
Yr. Lordp. most Obedt.
and most humble Servt.
A S Hamond

The Rt. Honble. Ld. Vt. Howe
Vice Admiral of the White and
Commander in chief &c. &c.
New York

Roebuck off the Delaware the 6th April 1777

My Lord

I have the honor to acquaint you of my arrival here with his Majesty's Ship under my command and the Perseus.

I left the Island of Antigua the 14th of last Month and Stopping at St. Christophers to take in water, I Sailed from thence with the Pearl, Perseus and Camilla the 21st following. The next day the Pearl had the misfortune to Spring her Fore-mast, I gave her what assistance was necessary to repair it, and as the whole Squadron might not be detained by the accident, I left the Camilla with her, Ordering Captain Elphinstone to follow as quick as possible, and with the Perseus have made the utmost dispatch in getting hither.

I cannot help expressing to your Lordship, that in the execution of the Service which you was pleased to entrust me with, I feel my self very unhappy on two accounts. The first is that I should have Sailed from the Delaware, as also the Pearl which I left behind me, before your Lordships letter of the 16: January by the Falcon reach'd that place: How this happened will, from the Journal I have the honor to transmit to your Lordship, appear to have been occasioned by the unusual long passage of the Falcon to and from New York, who left me 31st december and did not return to Cape Henlopen untill the 19th, However ~~those~~ the two Ships which your Lordship intended should have been left; were not employed unusefully, as they cruised off Charles Town Bar, where they drove Several of the Enemies Vessels on Shore, took four, and retook two English Ships of considerable value.

My other concern my Lord arises from

my

my not having been able to return so soon in the Spring to the Delaware as I fear your Lordship expected me to do, which has been Occasioned by many unforeseen delays I met with in English Harbour; a Place no ways calculated for fitting Ships expeditiously, from its Singular unhealthy situation, want of fresh Water, and the very small establishment of the Navy Yard; to which I may add the accident of discovering the Roebucks Mainmast to be Sprung within a few days of my being ready to Sail. Upon the whole I can assure your Lordship that there was no time lost: that the Captains and officers exerted themselves to the utmost in getting their Ships ready, and we had every assistance from Vice Admiral Young that was in his power to give us.

The Roebuck and Pearl have been Careened and refitted, the Perseus had everything done to her that she was in need of, and the Camilla's bottom being found to be perfectly good, she was only hove down as far as was necessary to clean her thoroughly: which saved much time, and her Ships company from suffering by sickness in the manner the other Ships experienced: But the Falcon being in want of Some repairs, and two thirds of her people being at the Hospital, I was under the necessity of leaving her behind with Orders to Captain Windsor to proceed hither as soon as possible.

The Leeward Islands, Antigua in Particular abound at present with English Sailors, but as very few would enter for his Majesty's Ships, I was under the necessity of Pressing to compleat my compliment of Seamen

in

in the Harbour of St. Johns, by which means I have got the Ships well manned, which I hope your Lordship will approve of, especially as I did not take this Step untill I had applied to the Principal Magistrate, whose Answer, I take the liberty to enclose.

My last letter sent by Lieutenant Christian Agent for the Stragling Victualing Transports who Sailed from Antigua the latter end of February, would inform your Lordship of the Alterations in the command of the Ships that Admiral Young had made in consequence of the Death of Captain Wilkinson, by giving Captain Elphinstone an Order to command the Pearl, Captain Phipps the Perseus, Captain Linzee the Camilla and Lieutenant Windsor to command the Falcon, since which the Admiral thought proper to give Commissions to the two latter, and on the Death of the Purser of the Falcon he appointed Mr. Henry Withers to that office.

The Captain of the Perseus having complained to me of the bad behavior of Mr. Miles the Purser of that Ship particularly of his negligence in his Office, and Mr. Miles having applied to me by letter for leave to quit the Service, I gave Orders for a survey to be held on his remains of Provisions and his books to be examined, when finding that he was not in debt to the Crown I complied with his request, and have appointed Mr. Noel Spry late Purser of the Otter to act in his room until further Order.

His Majesty's Ship the [illegible] Captain Hawker put into English Harbour [illegible] February to refit having Sprung his Bowsprit which being repaired

Admiral

Admiral Young gave Captain Hawker Orders to take the Stragling victualing Transports that were at Antigua under his Convoy and proceed with them to New York; I left him at Saint John's, where he had collected 8 or 9 Sail and I understood from him that he expected to leave S^t. Christophers about the 25th. of last Month. — The Flora arrived the 3^d March and when I sailed was preparing to heave down; And the Albany Sloop commanded by Lieuten^t. Hindman having been blown off her station near S^t. Georges's Bank arrived at Antigua the 12th March.

I have the Satisfaction to acquaint your Lordship that on our passage hither we have taken two of the Enemy's Cruizers, The Defence Brigantine of War mounting 14 Guns and 87 Men fitted out by the Province of South Carolina, and the Sachem Privateer belonging to Philadelphia carrying 10 Guns and 54 Men: We met with the first which was commanded by one Pickerin on the 31st of last Month between the Island of Bermudas and the Coast of America, she had been out only 3 Days had taken nothing and was destined to Cruize to Windward of Barbadoes to intercept the Ships expected from the Coast of Africa; This Vessel had been particularly Successful on the last Cruize, having made Several valuable Captures among the West India Islands, besides the Ship Tyger laden with Sugar which they had cut out of one of the Harbours in Jamaica.

The

The Sachem came out only the day before yesterday and when the Roebuck and Perseus fell in with her was convoying Several other Vessels bound to the West Indies, two of which have Also fallen into our hands.

I learnt from the Prisoners that the Rebel Frigate, called the Randolph had escaped out of the Delaware on the breaking up of the Ice, and that having met with bad weather at Sea, she had about three weeks ago put into Charles Town dismasted and much disabled.

I send this letter by my first Lieutenant Mr. Ord who I have appointed to command the Defence, and whom I beg leave to recommend to your Lordship as an Active diligent Officer. I have the honor to be with the highest respect.

My Lord

Your Lordships

most obedt. and,

most humble St.

A S Hamond

The Rt. Honble. the L. Visct. Howe
Vice Adml. of the White &c. &c.
New York

Roebuck in the Delaware the 10th June 1777

My Lord

Commodore Hotham will have informed your Lordship of his having dispatched Captain Reeve in the Merlin with the Haerlem Armed Sloop, the Preston and Roebucks Tenders to Sinepuxen, an Inlet about 15 Leagues South of the Delaware, in order to destroy some Rebel Vessels that were said to have lately arrived there; They returned here the 7th instant but without having been able to Succeed. Captain Reeve Anchored off the Bar in the Evening of the 27th of last Month, and Saw Six Vessels within the Inlet which he intended to attack the next morning, but a gale of Wind coming on in the Night obliged them to Slip and put to Sea, and it was not untill the 5 of June that he was able to reach that place again; He then discovered that a battery of 4 Guns had been erected in his absence on the South point of the Entrance and the Vessels appeared drawn up to defend the Harbour: He sounded the bar in the Night, and in no part could find a channel of more than 10 feet 8 Inches at high water: Therefore as neither the Merlin or the Haerlem could easily have been lighten'd to that draught, and the Two Tenders not being sufficient force of themselves He thought it most prudent not hazard any attempt upon the Vessels, but to return to the Delaware with that information

On

On the 5 June three Small Vessels were destroyed by the Roebucks Boats in Indian River, one of them a Schooner loaded with Tobacco was on the point of Sailing for the West Indies, And had a number of letters on board, some of which I have thought necessary to send to your Lordship.

The Pearls boat having intercepted and taken the Captain of a Letter of Mart. laying in Maurices River, I obtained information from the Boats Crew of their being 16 Sail of the Enemies Vessels there waiting for an opportunity to put to Sea; An Attempt was made last night to Surprize them but the Enemy suspecting the design had moved their Vessels to the head of the River, which is encompassed with woods where it was judged not prudent to follow them.

I know of no other material occurrence having happened since the departure of Commodore Hotham, except my having intercepted a large French Brig that appeared at day light in the morning within a few Miles of the Capes standing into the Delaware which after a short chace was boarded and taken by my Pilot boat; She comes from Guadeloupe and as usual is cleared out for St. Pierre and Miquelon; Her Cargoe consists of Rum, Molasses, Coffee & Linnens, and from the deposition of Two Philadelphia People now on board the Roebuck The same Vessel and Captain delivered a Cargoe of the same kind there in August last.

The

The Merchants at Philadelphia thinking it no longer possible to get their Vessels safe into the Delaware have directed all their Masters to put into the Inlets in the Neighbourhood; If therefore your Lordship would spare me the Hinchenbrooke, a Galley or any small Vessels of an easy draft of Water, many supplies would be cut off from the Enemy that they now continually receive.

Enclosed is the State and Condition of the Ships under my command, as also a Journal of my proceedings since the 25.th of last Month.

I have the honor to be &ca &c. &c.

A. S. H——d

To

The Rt. Honble the Ld. Vt. Howe

Vice Adml. of the White & Com. in chief &c. &c. &c.

New York

℘ Haerlem

Roebuck in the Delaware the 25 June 1777

Sir

As it is intended that the Ships shall proceed further up the River as soon as they have received their Provisions from the Betsey Victualing Transport, which movement may encourage the Rebel Vessels in Maurice River to make an attempt to put to Sea; It is my desire that you take charge of the said Victualer and proceed down the Bay towards Cape Henlopen where I expect you will meet with the York Armed Sloop, which is to take the Victualler in charge; And after delivering the enclosed Orders to Lieutenant Wallbeoff you are to cruize between the Capes, on the Inside of the Overfalls, in the way you think best for intercepting any Rebel Vessels that may attempt to pass.

I am
Sir
Your most obed^t humble Servant
A. S. Hamond

To
Captain Reeve
of His Majesty's Sloop
the
Merlin

Roebuck in the Delaware 26 June 1777

My Lord

I have had the honor to receive your Letter of the 18th instant by the York, which with the Betsey Victualing Transport arrived here the 22d following: The Provisions have been distributed to the different Ships, and in pursuance of your Lordships directions, I have given Orders to Lieutenant Watbeoff to ~~join~~ Convoy the Transport back to New York.

I am Sorry to inform your Lordship of the death of Lieutenant Blount of the Marines on board the Pearl, which now leaves that Ship without any marine officer.

I have already informed your Lordship that the Ships here are much in want of Hammacks, Beds and all kinds of Slops; I therefore take the liberty to send the enclosed demand in case any of those Articles can be supplied at New York. also enclosed is an account of the State and Condition of the Squadron under my command and a Journal of my proceedings.

I have the honor to be &c.

A S Hamond

To

The Rt. Honble. Lord Vt. Howe Vice Ad. of the White,

commander in Chief &c. &c. &c. —

The Demand

A Demand for a Supply of Slop Cloths &c.ª for His Majesty's Ships under my command in the Delaware the 26th June 1777 vizt.

Kersey Jackets	200 No.
Waistcoats	200
Breeches	150
Linsey Waistcoats	150
Drawers	150
Shirts	300
Stockings	300
Frocks	300
Trowsers	300
Dutch Caps	100
Shoes	300
Beds	150
Hammacks	150

A. S. Hamond

Roebuck at Cape Henlopen 9th July 1777

My Lord,

Having a few days ago receiv'd intelligence that the enemy had Several Vessels at Chingoteack [illegible] inlet 18 Leagues to the Southward of the Delaware, which were taking in Cargoes for the West Indies; I immediately dispatched Mr. Whitworth in the Stanley Brig with another small Tender of 4 Guns to that place; And I have the Satisfaction to inform your Lordship that they have compleatly effected that Service without any loss, Having

taken

taken four Vessels laden with Tobacco and Flour, destroyed four others without Cargoes, and have taken 40 Prisoners Several of which have since Entered into His Majesty's Service. Much praise is due to Mr. Whitworth for his good conduct and address on this business, where he had many difficulties to encounter, as besides the intricacy of the navigation into the Harbour, he was not provided with any boats proper for boarding, however it was undertaken and performed with much Spirit and resolution by Mr. Rogers and Mr. Douglass Midshipmen belonging to the Roebuck in 2 small Boats.

* The Enemy assembled the Militia and brought down two pieces of Cannon to annoy them as they came out of the Harbour, but without the least effect.

Inclosed is a list of the Vessels taken and destroyed.

I have the honor to be

&c. &c. &c.

A. S. Hamond

To
The Rt. Hble. Lord Viscount Howe
&c. &c. &c.
New York

* As soon as the Prizes & Prisoners [were] secured, they landed on Wallops Island [and] took off 30 head of Cattle which they have also brought round with them hither, and which will be of great use to the Ships Companys.

Roebuck in the Delaware 23^d July 1777

Secret

Sir

Many Sloops, Schooners, and other small Armed Vessels, conducted by Captn. Henry in the Vigilant, are hourly expected to arrive here; and it is my intention that they should be placed in Horekill road, along the Lewistown Shore, in a situation to give room for a number of Ships without them, and so as not to be within Gunshott of the Enemy: It is therefore my desire and direction to you, that you get under way in the Merlin in the Evening, or when your Signal shall be made, and cruize at a small distance from the Overfalls, in order to inform Captain Henry, where the Convoy is to be placed, and to be assistant in conducting them to the destined Anchorage. You will afterwards place your Sloop on the inside of all the Vessels for their protection; and acquaint Captain Henry that he is to take the Station immediately without them.

It is necessary to inform you that a Schooner will be placed on the East End of the Shears, with a Jack or flag at her masthead to shew the

place

place of the same.

I am
Sir
Your most obed.t humble servant
A S H

To
Captain Reeve
of His Majesty's Ship
the Merlin

Roebuck near Pool's Island
Chesepeak Bay 2.d Sept.r 1777

Sir

I sailed this morning from the anchorage of the Fleet, with three Victuallers under my ~~command~~ convoy, intended for the River Delaware and am retarded in my proceedings by the Roebuck and one of the Transports having run aground; As I am informed by the Admiral it is of Great Consequence that at least one of these Victuallers should arrive in the Delaware as soon as possible, and have with me his directions to the commanding officer of the Chesepeak Bay, to give sufficient Convoy to any of the Victuallers I may leave behind me on account of bad Sailing or accident; I think it necessary in order to forward this important service, to forward the Transports under Convoy of

of the Senegal to the place of their destination; but if it should be more agreeable to you, to send either of the other Frigates that you may have under your command upon this service, it will be equally agreeable to the intentions of the Admiral, Giving them directions to return as soon as the Transports are delivered to the Commanding Officer in the Delaware.

I have the honor to be
Sir
&c.ª &c.ª
A. S. Hamond

To
The Senior Captain
at the Capes of
Virginia

Roebuck off Gloucester
7 Decem.r 1777

Sir

During the Absence of the Army from the Town it is to be apprehended that the Enemy may avail themselves of that opportunity and attempt to make a diversion by sending Fire Machines down the River under Cover of their Row Gallies to annoy the

the Ships at the Wharfs. It is therefore my desire that a particular attention is paid to the Night Guard; which is to be under the direction of an Officer from each Ship alter=-nately; and the Cornwallis Galley is to be advanced in the Evening as a Rendezvous for the Boats during the Ebb-tide. You will therefore please to make this known to the Captains of the Ships advanced with you, and take the trouble of seeing that the Order is punctually complied with.

I am &c.

A. S. Hamond

To

The Honble Chas. Phipps ------ Camilla.
Captain Jno. Henry ------ Vigilant.
Lieut. James Watt ------ Delaware.
Jno. Brown ------ Cornwallis Galley.

Roebuck off Gloucester
9th December 1777

Sir,

During the Absence of the Army from the Town it is to be apprehended that the Enemy may endeavour to make a diversion and attempt by incendiarys to set fire to the Transports at the Wharfs.

You

You will therefore please to inform the Agents acting under your orders, that it is my earnest desire that they pay a most particular attention to the Regulations established within their districts, to see that the Pumps and Buckets of each Ship are in good Order, that the Guard is properly kept by the Masters in Rotation, and that it is understood by them to be not a matter of form only, but a business of the utmost Consequence.

I am with great regard
Sir
Your most obedient
and most humble Serv.t
A.S. Hamond

To
Captain Bourmaster
Fanny.–

Eagle
off New York
April the 24 1777.

Sir

By Lieutenant Orde I am favored, in your Letter of the 6th instant, with the account of your proceedings since the date of your preceding Dispatches by Lieutenant Christian.

I was so well assured all possible Expedition would be made in refitting the Ships under your Direction, that I could ascribe the Delay of your return to no other besides the real Cause; The obstructions incident to the Nature and Circumstances of the fitting Port. Your Diligence and judgment were equally testified in the measures you adopted for getting the Ships most speedily in the best Condition for future service, that your means would admit.

Understanding the Changes made by Vice Admiral Young in the command of the Ships of the American Squadron consequent of Captain Wilkinson's Decease, had not taken place at the time your former Letter was dated; I hoped that an Idea, so inconsistent in my apprehension, with all precedent or Authorities vested in Commanders under such circumstances, would not have been pursued. But as the resolution has been persisted in, suitable alterations

are

are requisite to be made in those irregular appointments, that the several vacancies caused by the Loss of that Gallant Officer may be duly supplied.

You have not let me know the time when the Leave you granted Mr. Miles Purser of the Perseus, to quit the Service, was given; Nor transmitted his Letter of application to that effect: Both of which are necessary for my information respecting the Regularity of the vacancy and appointment of Mr. Swiney to the Ship.

Lieutenant Orde having been some time since commissioned for the Eagle, Lieutenant Watt nominated to succeed him, takes his passage in the Preston to join the Roebuck.

I am

Sir

Your most Obedient

humble Servant

Howe

Captain Hamond

Roebuck